

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident - Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: **POLREP #2**
 Clean and Response Activities
 Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident

Maywood, CA
Latitude: 33.9961640 Longitude: -118.2011630

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 JJ Winston, USCG PST

Lee Myers, DTSC

From: Robert Wise, OSC

Date: 6/21/2016

Reporting Period: 06/19-20/2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:		Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	6/14/2016	Start Date:	6/14/2016
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Magnesium fire at a metal recycling and stripping company.

1.1.2 Site Description

On June 14, 2016 at approximately 0200 hours, a fire started at Panda International Trading (PIT) located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, CA. Fruitland Ave. is a commercial/light manufacturing district. The facility holds

two businesses, PIT and SOKOR Metals. PIT is a scrap metal yard that send scrap metal out in bulk for recovery. SOKOR is a precious metals recovery operation that recovers precious metals from circuit boards and other electronics. The site originally consisted of several buildings, but all were destroyed in the fire.			
During the fire approximately 300 people			Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
		Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	were evacuated.
The evacuation was lifted homes on the Street on June 16, 2016, by LACoFD. The homes of the Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy at borders the site have remained evacuated due to the presence of ash throughout the properties. Approximately 31 families remain evacuated and are staying at a Red Cross Shelter.		Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	
1.1.2.1 Location			
The site is located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, Los Angeles Co., CA 90702 (Latitude: 33.9961640 Longitude: -118.2011630). On the southern fence line of the site is a residential neighborhood of single family homes. To the north, east and west is are light industry.			
1.1.2.2 Description of Threat			
See POLREP No. 1.			
1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results			
See POLREP No. 1.			
2. Current Activities			
2.1 Operations Section			
2.1.1 Narrative			
EPA has mobilized to an ongoing fire in Maywood, CA on June 14, 2016. The fire started early on the morning of June 14, 2016 at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood CA. This address included a scrap metal export business and a precious metals recovery business. The fire ignited approximately 10,000 pounds of magnesium ingots stored at the scrap metal exporter. During firefighting operations, the magnesium exploded several times after contact with the firefighting water. Approximately 300 people were			

evacuated from the	Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	Maywood.
No injuries are reported but the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has issued a smoke advisory and are assessing possible toxic concerns and responding to odor complaints. The EPA initiated an air sampling program that documented elevated levels of particulates commonly associated with smoke and trace levels of heavy metals including copper, zinc, chrome, cadmium and lead.		
The fire was extinguished by June 16, 2016, but ash is strewn throughout the neighborhood, on surfaces of buildings, cars as well as in yards and parking areas. Sampling by EPA have documented that the ash contains elevated levels of copper and zinc as well as trace concentrations of other metals. Homes on		
Street have been reoccupied but homes on the	Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	remain evacuated pending safe occupancy determinations by LA County health officials. There are a total of 44 residences that have been subject to relocation on the 17 parcels	
	Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy	This
represents approx 200 individuals. Reportedly nearly all of the properties were assessed by Exide and most were remediated but exact numbers and locations have not been confirmed.		
The Unified Command for the site includes EPA, LACoFD and LACoPH. There are a number of cooperating agencies as well. Command priorities include Information sharing w impacted public and elected officials, source control and stabilization, and property protection and mitigation (site security).		
On June 16, 2016 OSC Robert Wise utilized his delegated procurement authority to dispatch the ERRS contractor to conduct emergency removal action. EPA is participating in an Unified Command with HHMD and LACoPH.		
2.1.2 Response Actions to Date		
June 19, 2016		

Agencies Present: EPA, USCG, LACoFD, LACoPH, Vernon Fire Department (VFD), Vernon Police Department (VPD), Los Angeles Co. Sheriffs (LACoSD) and DTSC

Contractors Present: START, ERRS, SERAS

The ERRS contractor conducted decontamination of 52nd Street and cars on the north side of the street. The street was pressure washed and the cars were given a low pressure wash. The water was collected and placed in a frac tank staged in front of the site. The car's owners were provided vouchers for a car wash at a local facility. The ERRS contractor also pumped out contaminated water from the truck ramp on the facility.

The U.S. Coast Guard PST and IMAT has integrated into the Unified Command as the incident Site Safety Officer and the Planning Section Chief.

June 20, 2016

Agencies Present: EPA, USCG, LACoFD, LACoPH, VFD, VPD, LACoSD and DTSC

Contractors Present: START, ERRS, SERAS

The ERRS contractor began to manage the waste on the site to provide access into the site. EPA provided assistance to DTSC OCI in getting access to the site. Based on the visible observation of the ash at number of homes, EPA is beginning planning operations for residential cleanup operations.

June 21. 2016

Agencies Present: EPA, USCG, LACoFD, LACoPH, VFD, VPD, LACoSD and DTSC

Contractors Present: START, ERRS, SERAS

Operations today include applying soil sealant to debris pile in the burn impacted area. Small pockets of ash will continue to be collected from streets in a touch up fashion. Property cleanup job walks (w ERRS contractors) are set to begin at most heavily impacted homes (approx 8) to establish yard cleanup plans.

<p>Frac tank sampling occurred today to ensure that collected wastewater can be discharged. A Viper system (data acquisition system) has been established for air monitoring for particulates around the perimeter. Indoor air sampling in homes and soil sampling in yards will resume tomorrow. The OSC has requested consultation with ATSDR and a regional toxicologist.</p> <p>A public meeting was held at the local YMCA for evacuees. They are staying in a local hotel will be extended through next Wednesday under auspices of County emergency management. OSC Wise gave three interviews.</p> <p>2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)</p> <p>OSC Wise issued a Notice of Federal Response Action to Mr. Pan on June 15, 2016 notifying him of his liability and requesting he conduct cleanup operations. He replied on June 17, 2016 that he was refusing to conduct the grounds of financial inability.</p> <p>2.1.4 Progress Metrics</p>					
<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposition</i>

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2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Activities for June 22, 2016 will include continuation of application of the soil sealant, indoor air sampling in the homes, collection of any residual ash still present around cars that were not moved on Sunday using a HEPA vacuum and continued management of the site pile.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Removal operations will include the following:

- Assessment of the evacuated homes;

2.3 Logistics Section

2.4 Finance Section

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Decontamination of the homes on the north side if	<div>Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy</div>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment of the site; andRemoval of hazardous substances from the site.			
	2.2.2 Issues			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Securing access to the homes;Determining an action level for reoccupancy. EPA is working with ATSDR and LACoPH to establish this level; andContamination in the surrounding businesses.			
LACoPH is serving as the Logistics Section Chief for the Unified Command. The ERRS contractor is handling logistics for EPA.				
See POLREP No. 1. An amendment for the START TDD was submitted and approved. A TO amendment for ERRS has been submitted and has been approved.				
Estimated Costs	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$400,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$225,000.00	56.25%
IAGs - PST	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	100.00%
TAT/START	\$149,280.00	\$79,202.00	\$70,078.00	46.94%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	(\$6,000.00)	0.00%
Total Site Costs	\$564,280.00	\$60,202.00	\$304,078.00	53.89%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific

figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The SSO is the PST.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

The Liaison Officer is being staffed by LACoPH. The CIC function has been placed under the Liaison Officer. An EPA CIC has been dispatched.

2.5.3 Information Officer

The PIO for the site is LACoPH. A JIC has been set up on-site. EPA has deployed two press officers.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

The Unified Commanders are EPA, LACoFD HHMS and LACoPH.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

DTSC, DPSS, LACoOEM, LACoSD, VFD, VPD, SCAQMD, LACoISD; DTSC, EPA CID, City of Maywood, City of Vernon.

4. Personnel On Site

June 19, 2016:

EPA OSC: 1

EPA ERT: 1

USCG PST: 1

USCG IMAT: 1

START: 3

SERAS: 2

ERRS: 9

June 20, 2016:

EPA OSC: 2

EPA ERT: 1

USCG PST: 1

USCG IMAT: 1

START: 3

SERAS: 2

ERRS: 9

June 21, 2016:

EPA OSC: 4

EPA ERT: 1

USCG PST: 1

USCG IMAT: 2

START: 3

SERAS: 2

ERRS: 9

5. Definition of Terms

AQMD: South Coast Air Quality Management District

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

CIC: Community Information Coordinator

Co.: County

DPSS: Department of Public Social Services

DTSC: Department of Toxic Substance

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

ERRS: Emergency and Rapid Removal Services (EPA Contractor)

ERT: Environmental Response Team

HCN: Hydrogen Cyanide

HHMD: Health Hazardous Materials Division

IMAT: Incident Management Team

LACoFD: Los Angeles County Fire Department

LACoOEM: Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management

LACoPH: Los Angeles County Public Health

LACoSD: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

NCP: National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300)

OSC: On--Scene Coordinator

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PEL: Permissible Exposure Limit

PES: Patriot Environmental Services

PRP: Potentially Responsible Party

PST: Pacific Strike Team

PIT: Panda International Trading Co.

RM: Removal Manager

SERAS: Science, Engineering, Response and Analytical Support contractor

SOKOR: SOKOR Metals

START: Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team contractor

TDD: Technical Direction Document

TO: Task Order

TTLC: Total Threshold Limit Concentration

USCG: US Coast Guard

VFD: Vernon Fire Department

VOCs: Volatile Organic Compounds

VPD: Vernon Police Department

XRF: X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

The website for this site is located www.epaossc.org/FruitlandMgFire.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

The next POLREP will be June 23, 2016.

7. Situational Reference Materials

See the IAPs in Documents Section.